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MILITARY SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812,

Constituting

THE

VETERAN CORPS OF ARTILLERY

In the State of New York.



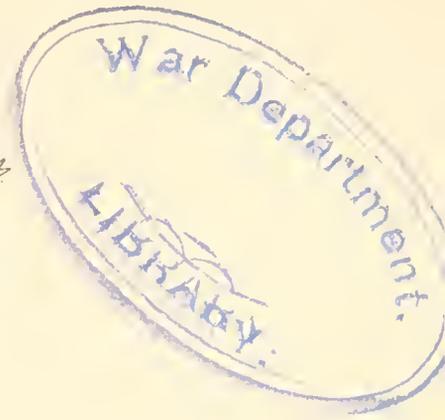
Report of the Publication Committee.

New York, April 19, 1896.

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PRO PATRIA ET JURE GENTIUM



The Society of the War of 1812,

Instituted January 3, 1826,

by

Officers of the Armies and Navies of the United States
in the War of 1812,

and

Consolidated January 8, 1848,

with

The Veteran Corps of Artillery,

In the State of New York,

Instituted November 25, 1790,

by

Officers and Soldiers of the War of the Revolution,

And called into the Military Service of the

United States in 1812 and 1814.

Incorporated January 8, 1892, as a Military Institution, under the Laws
of the State of New York, by the surviving Veteran Original Members.

Incorporation amended by Act of Legislature, March 9, 1895.

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VETERAN CORPS OF ARTILLERY,
MILITARY SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812.

NEW YORK, *April 18, 1896.*

COL. HENRY CHAUNCEY, JR.,
Adjutant and Secretary.

DEAR SIR :

The Committee on Publication, designated at the annual meeting held in the Governor's Room of the City Hall, in the city of New York, on January 8, 1896, having duly examined the valuable records, rolls and other documents of this organization in your official custody, is satisfied that the Veteran Corps of Artillery has been in continuous existence since its formation in 1790, and was duly incorporated in 1848 with the Military Society of the War of 1812; and desire that the accompanying reports and communications be published for the information of the members, in addition to the Annual Roster for 1896.

Very respectfully,

Dear Sir,

Your obedient servants,

MORGAN DIX, *Chairman,*
JOHN VAN RENSSELAER HOFF,
JAMES BLISS TOWNSEND,
WILLIAM D. HARDEN,
GEORGE W. OLNEY,
LOUIS J. ALLEN,

Committee,

Report No. 1.

It being deemed desirable, for the information more particularly of military and naval officers of the United States, that the status of the Military Society of the War of 1812, constituting the "Veteran Corps of Artillery," under Section 1641 Revised Statutes of the United States, and the joint resolution of Congress, approved September 25, 1890, should be officially reported, the Navy Department duly detailed Captain Theodore Frederick Kane, U. S. Navy, to investigate and report.

The following is the communication of the Secretary of the Navy and accompanying report :

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, December 30, 1895.

SIR : Replying to your letter of the 24th instant, I have to transmit herewith, in compliance with your request, a copy of the report made by Captain T. F. Kane, U. S. Navy, upon the Military Society of the War of 1812.

Very respectfully,

H. A. HERBERT, Secretary.

NAVY YARD,
NEW YORK, August 1, 1895.

SIR : In compliance with your instructions of June 5, 1894, I have the honor to report that I have inspected and examined the records of the Military Society of the War of 1812, commonly known by the title of "Veteran Corps of Artillery," and find as follows :

This corps constitutes an independent military organization under Section 1641 Revised Statutes of the United States and the Laws of New York.

It was originally organized in the City of New York in 1790, by ex-officers and soldiers of the War of the Revolution; and in 1812, and again in 1814, volunteered and was mustered into the military service of the United States, a detachment having been continued on duty until the peace of 1815.

After the close of the War of 1812, the corps was recruited and gradually increased from among those who had served honorably in that war,

It frequently paraded and fired salutes on suitable occasions until its venerable members became too feeble for that duty.

It has, however, continuously since 1815, raised the National flag on the Battery, foot of Whitehall Street, and on the Block House in Central Park, in this City, on July 4th, and on Evacuation Day, November 25th, in every year.

On January 3d, 1826, certain officers and ex-officers of the regular and volunteer forces and militia of the United States, who had served honorably in the War of 1812, met in the City of New York and organized a Military Society by the name of "The Society of the War of 1812."

This organization continued to meet at stated times until January 8th, 1848, when it was consolidated with "The Veteran Corps of Artillery."

On April 30th, 1889, on the occasion of the Centennial celebration in the City of New York, of the inauguration of the Government of the United States under the Constitution, but five venerable members, in uniform, were able to meet the President of the United States at the reviewing stand in Madison Square.

They then decided that, in order to perpetuate the Corps as a Military Society, it was necessary to amend their regulations and admit descendants.

Twenty-two veteran members still survived, of whom fifteen were a quorum.

These all consented and designated five of their number as Trustees.

Before all the arrangements were completed, three of the members died. The remainder, however, ratified in due legal form the acts of their Trustees, and the enclosed exhibit is a certified copy of part of such ratification.

On January 8th, 1892, the five veteran Trustees duly incorporated their organization as a Military Society under the laws of New York, by the name of the "Society of the War of 1812."

Since then, lest there might be any question that by such incorporation the Veteran Corps had waived any of its former rights and privileges as an independent military organization, the Legislature of the State of New York on March 9th, 1895, by an Act amending the incorporation, has confirmed the Corps in all its original privileges as a military society and organization under Section 1641 U. S. Revised Statutes.

Its officers take the constitutional oath of office, which is filed in the Adjutant-General's Office, at Albany, and the Adjutant-General of the State of New York is, by law, designated as the Inspector of the Corps.

Four veteran members of the War of 1812 still are borne on its rolls, two of them, including Lieutenant Michael Moore, U. S. A., retired, being members of its Council of Administration.

I have the honor, therefore, to report that "The Society of the War of 1812" in the State of New York, known also legally by the title of the "Veteran Corps of Artillery," is a Military Society within the meaning and intent of the joint resolution of Congress, approved September 25th, 1890, said organization having been actually formed by men who them-

selves served in a National War declared by Congress, namely the War of 1812.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THEO. F. KANE,

Captain U. S. Navy.

The Secretary of the Navy,

Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Report No. 2.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 91, Laws of New York, approved March 9, 1895, under which this organization is subject to the visitation and inspection of the Adjutant General of the State, or officer deputed by him, Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen H. Olin, Assistant Adjutant General 1st Brigade, National Guard, was detailed by the Adjutant General, in communication dated General Headquarters, State of New York, Adjutant General's Office, Albany, January 3, 1896, to inspect the records of the organization, and inquire into its status, and report the result of such inspection, accompanied by such transcripts from the records and rolls as he might deem desirable.

The following is the report :

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, N. G. N. Y.,
Park Avenue and Thirty-fourth St.,

NEW YORK, January 28, 1896.

The Adjutant General, Albany, N. Y.

SIR : In obedience to your communication of January 3, instant, I have the honor to report that I have inspected the records of the Military Society of the War of 1812, and inquired into its status.

On January 3, 1826, a number of officers who had served during the War of 1812, met at the City of New York and organized with the purpose of petitioning Congress to reward with a donation of land their past services.

On September 25, 1826, they resolved that their organization should be perpetuated and should be a Military Society.

On January 8, 1848, the Society consolidated with "The Veteran Corps of Artillery," and was afterwards generally known by the latter title.

This Corps was an independent military organization, formed November 25, 1790, by a number of men who had served in the Revolutionary War as officers or soldiers.

On September 2, 1814, it was mustered into the military service of the United States, and attached to the 3d Regiment, N. Y., State Artillery, and was on December 3, 1814, honorably discharged,

The Corps kept up its organization, from time to time enrolling veterans of the War of 1812. In 1852 it assumed an Artillery Brigade organization. It took part in patriotic demonstrations, in reviews and parades, and received honorable recognition from military and civic authorities, including the commander of the First Division of the State Troops and the Mayor of New York.

On September 10, 1890, new Regulations were unanimously adopted by the nineteen surviving veteran members, providing for the admission of hereditary members and the appointment of officers and council of administration.

On January 8, 1892, the Corps was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, and on March 9, 1895, the Legislature amended the incorporation of "The Society of the War of Eighteen Hundred and Twelve," extending its powers, confirming its privileges and making it subject to the visitation and inspection of the Adjutant General.

There are upon the roster the names of four original and eighty-seven hereditary members. The records are duly kept.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Respectfully,

STEPHEN H. OLIN,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Report No. 3.

On May 14, 1895, the Board of Aldermen of the City of New York unanimously adopted the following resolution, which was duly approved by the Mayor, Honorable William L. Strong, viz.:

(General Order 279.)

Whereas, The Veteran Corps of Artillery, incorporated as the Military "Society of the War of 1812," has since the close of the second war with Great Britain, in 1815, annually on Independence Day (July 4), and Evacuation Day (November 25), caused the flag of the United States to be raised on the flagstaff at the Battery and at the Stone Block House in Central Park; and

Whereas, It is reported that said flagstaffs require to be painted and repaired and receive new hempen halyards in order to put them in safe condition, and that the flags heretofore used by said Corps for the above mentioned patriotic duty are worn out and no longer serviceable; therefore

Resolved, That the Commissioners of Public Parks be and hereby are respectfully requested to have said flagstaffs painted and put in good condition, and to procure two regulation United States flags (twenty by thirty-six and ten by twenty), best standard bunting with Italian hempen halyards, at a total cost not to exceed one hundred and fifteen dollars, and that said flags be intrusted to said Veteran Corps on suitable occasions to

enable them to perform the before mentioned patriotic duty, and that said Corps continue to perform said duty until further order.

On June 19, 1895, at a regular meeting of the Department of Public Parks of the City of New York, the following resolution was adopted, viz.:

Resolved, That in compliance with the request of the Board of Aldermen (G. O. 259), the Veteran Corps of Artillery, incorporated as the Military Society of the War of 1812, whereof the Revd. Morgan Dix, S. T. D., D. C. L., is President and Commandant, continue to have charge of raising the National flag at the Battery and at the Block House in Central Park on July 4, the anniversary of American Independence, and on November 25, Evacuation Day, in every year, and that the Superintendent of Parks place in charge of said Corps for said occasions two regulation United States flags of the prescribed dimensions.

In November, 1895, certain descendants of John Van Arsdale, who had been a member of the Veteran Corps until his decease in 1836, appeared before the Board of Aldermen and asked for a special investigation and rescission of the above mentioned resolution of May 14, 1895, claiming that John Van Arsdale had raised the United States flag at the Battery on November 25, 1783, and had *personally* continued to do so in every year thereafter until his decease, and that thereafter his son, David Van Arsdale (who had also been a member of the Veteran Corps), continued annually to do so until his decease in November, 1883, and that this had been a *personal* privilege in this family for one hundred and twelve years.

Thereupon, on November 12, 1895, the Board of Aldermen adopted the following resolution, viz.:

Whereas, This Board did, on May 14 last, adopt a resolution requesting the Commissioners of Public Parks to procure new flags to be raised at the Battery and at the Stone Block House in Central Park, on Independence Day and Evacuation Day; and

Whereas, There appears to be some misunderstanding as to whom should be intrusted the flags in question, for such purpose on those particular days; therefore

Resolved, That the Committee on Lands, Places and Park Department be and they are hereby instructed to investigate and report thereon at the next meeting, with such recommendations as may seem desirable.

Upon due published notice, this Committee of the Board of Aldermen had a public hearing and investigation in the City Hall on November 21st, 1895, at which the descendants of John Van Arsdale were represented by counsel, and all desired evidence submitted.

The attorney for the principal petitioner and claimant among the descendants of John Van Arsdale, presumably with the view of making the investigation thorough and conclusive, served the Military Society of the War of 1812, constituting the "Veteran Corps of Artillery," with the following notice to produce all its books and records.

This notice, although not properly directed nor subscribed by the attorney's full name, was nevertheless duly acknowledged and complied with, and afforded a suitable opportunity to demonstrate, by such production on the aforesaid public hearing, as may be seen by the unanimous report of the Committee on Lands, Places and Park Department, the falsity of statements made in the daily and periodic press and before the Committee concerning this Organization.

The notice to produce was as follows, viz.:

You are hereby notified to produce the following, viz.: All papers, documents, letters, letter-heads, books, records, minutes of meetings, whether of the society called "The Military Society of the War of 1812 Veteran Corps of Artillery," or of its Executive Board or Committee. Also its Year Book for 1895, called "Annals, Regulations and Roster." Also a document alleged to be in existence which is said to have been signed by certain veterans of the War of 1812 on the 10th day of September, 1890. Also certain letters relating to the society aforesaid, alleged to have been written by veterans of the War of 1812 to each other or to the officers of the said society. Also all correspondence between Asa Bird Gardiner and Appleton Morgan between the 13th day of November, 1891, and this date. Also copies of all the evidence, testimony, affidavits or minutes of conversation made before the Committee on Military Affairs of the Assembly of the State of New York, upon the occasion of its report of an act known as "Assembly No. 200, third reading, No. 602,782 of the State of New York," before the Committee on Lands, Places and Park Department of the Board of Aldermen of the City of New York, at Room 13, at the City Hall of the said city, on Thursday, the 21st day of November, 1895, at 12 o'clock noon, or at any adjournment of such meeting.

And you are hereby notified that if you fail to produce the above named, or any of them, secondary evidence will be given of their contents.

Dated NEW YORK, November 18, 1895.

The report of the Committee on Lands, Places and Park Department to the Board of Aldermen on November 26, 1895, was as follows:

NEW YORK, November 22, 1895.

To the Honorable the Board of Aldermen:

The Committee on Lands, Places and Park Department, to whom was referred the annexed resolution relative to the resolution of this Board

dated May 14, 1895, requesting the Park Commissioners to procure new flags to be raised at the Battery and at the Block-house in Central Park on Independence Day and on Evacuation day, respectfully

REPORT:

That the same has been carefully and duly considered, and that a public hearing was held on due notice on November 21, 1895, to which all interested parties were invited, and a full and free discussion had thereon.

Under the before mentioned resolution of May 14, 1895, and resolve thereon of the Department of Public Parks, of June 19, 1895, the duty of seeing that the National Standard is duly displayed on the Battery and at the Block-house in Central Park is intrusted to the Veteran Corps of Artillery, which was duly incorporated as the Military Society of the War of 1812 by veterans of that war, two of them still being members of its Council of Administration.

This military organization, under chapter 91 of the Laws of 1895, continues to be recognized by the State as a corps for certain highly patriotic purposes, and among these may be included the proper military celebration of Independence Day and Evacuation Day by raising the flag, and otherwise.

It was urged before the Committee that the before mentioned resolution of this Board of May 14, 1895, and of the Department of Public Parks, should be rescinded, and the duty of seeing that the National flag is properly displayed on the flagstaff at the Battery on Independence Day and Evacuation Day in every year vested in a descendant of John Van Arsdale, of whom Christopher R. Forbes, a great-grandson, was to be considered the present representative for such purpose.

This application was based on the claim that John Van Arsdale, who had been a soldier during part of the War of the Revolution, afterwards by occupation a boatman and a member of the Veteran Corps of Artillery, raised the American flag at the Battery on November 25, 1783, while the British Army were evacuating this city, and that he continued to raise the flag in every year thereafter until his decease in 1836, and that he was then succeeded by his son, David Van Arsdale, also a member of the Veteran Corps of Artillery, who continued to raise the flag until his decease in November, 1883, and that since then Christopher R. Forbes, a great-grandson of John Van Arsdale, has annually on that day and on Independence Day raised the flag at the Battery

In support of this claim Christopher R. Forbes appeared and was represented by James Appleton Morgan and other counsel.

Charles B. Riker, a grandson of John Van Arsdale, and several others, also appeared before the Committee and made arguments in support of the claim, and several affidavits were submitted, including two from James Appleton Morgan and references to historical volumes.

Under a formal notice to produce, the before mentioned Veteran Corps produced before the Committee its original veteran rosters of members, muster roll of the corps in United States service in 1814, and subsequent proceedings to date of members who had served in the War of 1812, together

with its orderly and minute books of proceedings and other documentary records and annals.

Historical volumes were also submitted, together with an affidavit of John G. Norman, nephew and representative of John Norman, an original member.

After due deliberation, your Committee has unanimously arrived at the following conclusions:

There seems to be considerable doubt as to the claim that John Van Arsdale raised the American flag at Fort George, the site of the present Bowling Green Row, in this city, on November 25, 1783, and much valuable evidence was submitted, showing that it was raised by the regulars of the American service, which is corroborated by documents published by this Board in the Manual of the Common Council for 1870.

We are led to believe, however, that John Van Arsdale or some other person nailed on the cleats to the flagstaff and rove the halyards to enable the flag to be hoisted on that occasion.

The statement that he was the "sailor boy" or mariner who had anything to do with raising the flag on Evacuation Day, 1783, first appears to have been publicly made in the announcement of the order of procession for Evacuation Day parade, November 25, 1830, forty-seven years after the event. It was coupled with the statement that he had torn down a British flag, which was, it was alleged, nailed to the flagstaff. The honor of raising the American flag was, however, then given to the venerable Anthony Glean, of Saratoga, N. Y., formerly Lieutenant in the Continental Navy, who had come to this city to attend the ceremonies and was in the procession with John Van Arsdale.

On the following day, November 26, 1830, the "New York Gazette" had a long account of how Lieutenant Glean, having found the cleats to the flagstaff knocked off, and halyards missing, and staff slushed, "procured a ready and willing sailor, who by the aid of a ladder ascended the pole and reeved the halyards, when, by the hands of Lieutenant Anthony Glean, the American Standard was first raised while the British were still getting into the boats and evacuating the city.

"The standard waving in the air, the artillery again fired a salute of 13 guns."

Lieutenant Glean's statement does not appear to have been disputed by John Van Arsdale. The latter's own claim that he was the sailor boy or mariner who rove the halyards, appears to rest on his own uncorroborated statement, made after that great lapse of time from the occurrence.

The flagstaff then stood, not on the present Battery, which was then under water, but in old Fort George, on the site of the present Bowling Green Row.

The evacuation of this city by the British army took place by preconcerted arrangement between General Washington and the British Commander-in-Chief, Sir Guy Carleton.

As the British withdrew from different positions the American forces under General Washington followed in plain view and occupied them.

Governor's Island and other necessary stations were held by the British

for a few days later. The British transports were anchored between Governor's Island and Whitehall, where the British troops leisurely embarked.

It is not necessary to discuss whether the British left their garrison flag nailed to the staff in Fort George, as stated by Lieutenant Glean, so as to subject it inevitably to be torn down in their plain view by whoever rove the halyards.

Captain John Van Dyck, of the Second Regiment, Continental Corps of Artillery, a former honored citizen of New York, having seen the newspaper account above referred to, wrote to the "New York Commercial Advertiser," June 30, 1831, and said he was in Fort George, within two feet of the flagstaff, when the flag was raised.

General Washington had sent a regiment of regular infantry and company of regular artillery to take possession of Fort George, raise the American flag and salute it with thirteen cannon.

Captain Van Dyke, in his letter, insisted that it was a sailor boy (not a man) who rove the halyards, and that there was no British flag on the staff to be pulled down. In addition to his positive personal recollection, he stated the military reasons why the British would not have left their flag flying, when they were withdrawing under a concerted arrangement with General Washington, and appealed to the officers of the American army for the correctness of his opinion.

All these facts will be found collated in the Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York, published by order of this Board in 1870, pp. 840-844.

It is proper to add that the late Benson J. Lossing, LL. D., in his "Field Book of the Revolution" (Vol. II. p. 839), says that it was a sailor boy who ascended the flagstaff. If it was a boy, it could not have been Van Arsdale, who was then a man and master of a sloop.

It appears from the records of this Board that Old Fort George soon fell into a "state of dilapidation and decay."

The Common Council inspected it on July 30, 1789, and on August 12, 1789, provided for its demolition, and that the earth from the parapets should be used to fill in the land under water, in front of the fort. Thus was commenced the present Battery, which was not completed until 1795, and was but a narrow strip of crescent-shaped greensward less than 300 feet wide between the buildings on State Street and the water's edge.

(See *New York City in 1789*, by Thomas E. V. Smith, *Secretary Sons of the Revolution*, Edition 1889, pp. 20, 21.)

In the spring of 1813, Major-General George Izard, U. S. A., requested permission of the Common Council to erect temporary breastworks around this little greensward, which permission was granted by this Board.

These works were commenced in April, 1813, and completed the following month, and a tall flagstaff was placed at the south end opposite Governor's Island.

(See *New York City during the War of 1812*, by R. S. Guernsey, Vol. I., pp. 181, 182.)

The Battery was thereupon garrisoned as a military post by United

States troops during the remainder of the War of 1812, and was not turned over to the City until the Peace of 1815.

The raising of the flag at sunrise and National salute on July 4 and November 25, in 1813 and 1814, were therefore performed by the United States garrison at the Battery.

On October 6, 1813, John Van Arsdale became a private in the Veteran Corps of Artillery, then composed of ex-officers and soldiers of the War of the Revolution, and was mustered with it into the military service of the United States on September 2, 1814, and continued in United States service until honorably discharged December 3, 1814, as appears by the muster rolls on file in the War Department at Washington.

He continued a member of this Veteran Corps in New York City until his decease, and was buried by it with appropriate military ceremonies. His son, David Van Arsdale, also became a member and continued a member until his decease in 1883. Officers and soldiers who had served honorably in the War of 1812 were also admitted, and, after a time, the patriotic work of the Corps devolved on them by the decease of the last of the veteran members who had served in the first War of Independence.

From this historic statement, verified from the records, it appears:

1st. That John Van Arsdale did not originally raise the American flag on November 25, 1783.

2d. That he could not, even if he had so desired, raise the flag on Old Fort George or the Battery continuously thereafter.

3d. That there is no proof that he ever did raise the flag on any occasion except as gathered from family tradition, which is a kind of testimony wholly unreliable.

It has been stated to your Committee by his decendants that he was given the freedom of the city at a Common Council held April 1, 1789, because of his alleged services on November 25, 1783.

This is disproved by the records of this Board.

He was, by occupation, a North River boatman, and brought supplies to this city on consignment or for sale.

Under the Montgomerie charter, an ordinance of the Common Council, dated March 9, 1784, required every merchant, trader or shopkeeper to pay five pounds, and every handicraft tradesman to pay twenty shillings, for the privilege of engagement in their several pursuits or buying and selling within this city.

John Van Arsdale, "boatman," upon taking the oath and paying the prescribed fee, was, according to the records of this Board, admitted a Freeman of the city on April 1, 1789, with seven others, viz.: One shopkeeper, one heelmaker, one laborer, one innholder and three blacksmiths.

After the War of 1812, which was called the second War of Independence, Evacuation Day and Independence Day began to be celebrated on the Battery by a flag-raising at sunrise and national salute to the flag.

The Veteran Corps of Artillery, as an independent military organization of the State, was frequently detailed to perform this duty, as can be seen by reference to the newspapers of the day. Its guns, two brass twelve-pounders, were furnished by the State and kept in the old State

Arsenal in White Street, and the ammunition for the salutes was furnished by the State

John Van Arsdale and his son David, without doubt, often paraded with this old organization on those occasions, and assisted in raising the national standard.

David Van Arsdale, in the closing years of his life, had some little government employment at the Barge Office, Battery, and appears to have been for about twenty years on the detail to raise the flag there.

(See report of the Joint Committee of Common Council and Citizens on Centennial Celebration Evacuation of New York by the British, 1885, page 152.)

As the venerable veterans became feeble, they often attended, accompanied by relatives, sons or grandsons, who did whatever was necessary in the way of getting permits or even hoisting the large garrison flag at the Battery and at the Block House.

The Veteran Corps, however, supervised the performance of this patriotic duty.

In aid of this investigation, their valuable rolls, records and proceedings have all been freely placed at the service of this Committee, including the Muster Roll of service in the War of 1812.

In conclusion it will be perceived that if any sentimental claim relative to raising the flag is deemed deserving consideration, the proper descendants of Lieutenant Anthony Glean, who raised the flag in November, 1783, would be entitled to preference.

Your Committee, however, see no occasion to enter into such questions.

Already the responsible duty of paying proper respect to the flag on Independence Day and Evacuation Day has been devolved by the Board upon the Veteran Corps of Artillery, duly incorporated as a military society, and recognized officially by the State of New York as an independent military organization.

The records of this Board show that Fort George was removed about the year 1789 in order to erect a Government House, and that there was no new flagstaff erected on any part of the present Battery until several years later, and that during the War of 1812 the Battery was, with the consent of this Board, fortified by the United States and made a garrisoned military post.

In consideration, therefore, of uncontradicted statements that there was a period of time, after the War of the Revolution, when the flag was never raised or only raised by the United States military authorities, and no evidence produced to show that it was raised with the aid of any of the family of claimants, except for a small number of years, and that the flagstaff is now at a very different place on the present Battery from where it formerly stood; and in further consideration that the above-mentioned Military Society of the War of 1812 is a patriotic corps to which all worthy male descendants of original veteran members or officers in the War of 1812 are eligible to become members and enjoy its privileges, your Committee believe that the duty of seeing that the National flag is properly displayed on the Battery and at the Block House

on Independence Day and Evacuation Day ought not to be left to individual caprice, but continue to be entrusted, under existing resolutions, to an Organization which, in its objects and membership, is a guarantee of proper performance.

In this view your Committee cannot recommend any change in existing resolutions, and respectfully ask that it may be discharged from further consideration of the annexed resolution.

THOMAS DWYER, Chairman;
CHARLES A. PARKER, Secretary;
ANDREW ROBINSON,
JEREMIAH KENNEFICK,
WILLIAM E. BURKE.

The report having been laid over and duly printed in the official *City Record* for November 29, 1895, was, at the next stated meeting of the Board of Alderman, held in the City Hall of the city of New York, on December 3, 1895, adopted by a large majority.

Communications.

The following communications were received from three of the four surviving veteran original members of this Organization who were unable to attend the annual meeting, held pursuant to law in the Governor's Room in the City Hall of the City of New York, on January 8, 1896 :

No. 1.

*From Lieutenant Michael Moore, U. S. Army, retired, Member of the Council of Administration.
Born in the City of New York, July 4, 1800.*

No. 20 Seventh Avenue,
BROOKLYN, N. Y., January 6, 1896.

Reverend Morgan Dix, S. T. D., D. C. L., Commandant and President Veteran Corps :

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the notice for the annual meeting of the Veteran Corps, to be held on January 8, 1896, in the Governor's Room of the City Hall.

It will be impossible for me to be present, much as I would like to be, but my advanced age makes it necessary for me to stay at home. I hope the meeting will be a pleasant and profitable one. I was very glad to learn that the Board of Aldermen of New York City refused by a large majority to take away from our Old Corps the duty of seeing that the United States flag is properly displayed at the Battery on November 25 and July 4, in every year.

I was born in New York City, and was stationed on Governor's Island

for upwards of thirty years. On and after the peace of 1815 our Old Corps considered it their duty to attend to this patriotic matter.

I have the honor to be, Reverend and Dear Sir,

Very respectfully,

M. MOORE,

2d Lieutenant, U. S. Army, retired.

No. 2.

From Thomas Morgan Sturtevant, Member of the Council of Administration.

Born in the City of New York, March 30, 1800.

MADISON, N. J., January 6, 1896.

Reverend Dr. Morgan Dix, President and Commandant Veteran Corps Artillery.

DEAR SIR: The notice for the annual meeting of this Corps, on January 8th next, has been received, and it is with much regret I find myself this time unable to be present.

The veterans of 1812, like our former revolutionary members, are fast passing away, but I desire to urge upon the present active members of the Corps to preserve unimpaired the national spirit which sustained our fathers in the first War of Independence, and inspired us, veterans, members in the second War of Independence.

In later years, when the veteran members were no longer able both to raise and salute our national flag on July 4th and November 25th, they still, with renewed devotion, attended to raising the flag on those memorable days at the Battery and at the Block House erected by the soldiers of 1812 in Central Park.

This duty now devolves on you, and should never be omitted.

That our old Veteran Corps, now in your charge, may continue to be as patriotic as in the past, when we, veterans, were the active members, is the fervent wish of, Dear Sir,

Very respectfully, and with affectionate regard, your obedient servant,

THOMAS M. STURTEVANT,

Member Council of Administration.

No. 3.

From Henry Morris, formerly Secretary and Adjutant, and a member since 1820.

Born in the City of New York, March 29, 1801.

PORTCHESTER, N. Y., January 6, 1896.

Reverend Dr. Morgan Dix, President and Commandant Veteran Corps.

REVEREND SIR: I have received notice of the annual meeting of our old Veteran Corps, to be held next Wednesday in the Governor's Room of the City Hall, on the anniversary of the glorious battle of New Orleans.

I am very sorry I cannot attend, but am kept at home by physical infirmities. I never failed for very many years, up to about five years ago,

to attend the meetings on July 4th and Evacuation Day, and assist in raising our country's flag, either at the Battery or at the 1812 Stone Block House in Central Park, after we put up a flagstaff there. Whenever we went to one of these places a detail was sent to the other, and afterward we would dine together with songs and toasts.

I hope the Corps will continue to see that the flag is properly raised on those days at the Battery and at the Block House, as we always considered this an important duty.

My recollections of our Corps go back to the War of 1812, when most of its members were revolutionary veterans, and that is why we always had '76 on our hats.

George Crygier, who died in 1888, served with them in the War of 1812 as a musician.

He never failed to parade with us until the year he died.

I joined a few years after that war.

Among those, who for many years, until their decease, turned out with the Corps properly uniformed, I may mention General Abraham Dally, whom you succeeded, Thos. Megson, Samuel Ryckman, David Van Arsdale, Thos. Bloomer and Elijah P. Jenks.

I could mention many others, including your honored father, General John A. Dix, and Thurlow Weed, who were members of our Corps.

We ever felt we represented the principles for which our country went to war with Great Britain, and I hope, now that the Corps has been rejuvenated by admitting descendants, that you will never lose sight of those principles for which the Corps contended in the War of 1812.

I was much pleased to receive a copy of the Annals, Regulations and Roster for 1895, with the portraits of veteran members.

Wishing you every success, I am, Reverend Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY MORRIS.

An Act

TO AMEND THE INCORPORATION OF "THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND TWELVE."

[Laws of New York, Chapter 91, approved March 9, 1895.]

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. Michael Moore and Thomas Morgan Sturtevant, of the War of Eighteen Hundred and Twelve, Morgan Dix, Asa Bird Gardiner, Gouverneur Mather Smith, James Mortimer Montgomery, Henry Chauncey, Jr., David Banks and Frederic Gallatin, and their successors, constituting the Council of Administration, or Board of Directors, of "The Veteran Corps of Artillery" of that war, incorporated by surviving veteran members thereof on January eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-two, as a Military Society, under chapter two hundred and sixty seven of the laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-five and amendatory acts, by the title of "The Society of the War of Eighteen Hundred and Twelve," may, for the purpose of effecting one of the expressed objects of the incorporation of said Corps, appoint from time to time delegates therefrom to unite with delegates from any *military* society or societies formed in other states by men who served in the armies and navies of the United States in that war, in instituting a National or General Society of the War of Eighteen Hundred and Twelve for patriotic and commemorative purposes, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the United States or this state, and the said Veteran Corps shall, notwithstanding its incorporation as a body politic as aforesaid, be allowed to retain its accustomed privileges, subject, nevertheless, to all other duties required by law.

SEC. 2. In addition to the burial lots dedicated to its use in eighteen hundred and fifty-four for burial of deceased veteran members of the War of Eighteen Hundred and Twelve, the said Corps may procure and hold such other real estate as may be required for interment of its deceased members and erection of memorials thereon, and such property shall be exempt from taxation and other liabilities in the same manner as other cemetery lands while used for cemetery purposes and no longer.

SEC. 3. Membership in said Corps shall be restricted and limited to those persons of full age, qualified by the regulations, in form of constitution and by-laws, adopted therefor by its veteran members, of date September ten, eighteen hundred and ninety. The officers thereof as conducive to the improvement of said organization shall be chosen or appointed in the mode and at the times provided in said regulation, and the tenure of office and removal therefrom shall be as therein prescribed, and every

such officer shall, within fifteen days after his election or appointment, take and subscribe the constitutional oath of office, or all rights thereunder shall cease and determine, and a vacancy be thereby created to be filled by a new election or appointment.

SEC. 4. In lieu of the requirements of section nine of chapter two hundred and sixty-seven of the laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-five, a report, verified by the affidavit of the President as Commandant, and Secretary as Adjutant, or by any two officers of said Corps, shall be made and filed in the office of the Adjutant-General of this state within thirty days after the passage of this act, and in the month of January in every succeeding year, containing the required inventory as to its military and other property and effects, together with a roster of the members and their respective residences, and certifying the officers and Council of Administration chosen or appointed for the same, and said Corps shall be subject to the visitation and inspection of the Adjutant-General or officer deputed by him, and may, for the purposes of its original formation, continue to be known by its said former title.

SEC. 5. The military fund of said Corps shall be under the control and management of the Board of Officers, which shall consist of the Commandant, Vice-President as Vice-Commandant, Adjutant, Treasurer as Quartermaster, chosen by the Council of Administration from their own number, together with the Chaplain, Assistant Secretary as Paymaster, Registrar as Commissary and Surgeon, chosen by said Council from among the members of the Corps, and the incorporation of said independent organization as a body politic for certain expressed purposes shall not abridge nor make void the privileges, immunities, exemptions or liabilities previously conferred or imposed on the same, under section one thousand six hundred and forty one, revised statutes of the United States, and sections seventy-five, seventy-seven, one hundred and thirty-three, one hundred and forty-three, and one hundred and forty-five of chapter two hundred and ninety-nine of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-three, and acts amendatory thereof.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect immediately.



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